

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TAGS: AORG (RIBICOFF, ABRAHAM), EWWT, PORG, IMCO

SUBJ: SGOC STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

REF: STATE 284208

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS KEYED TO QUESTIONS IN REFTEL. A. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IMCO SECRETARIAT AND ITS 101 MEMBER STATES IS IN ALMOST ALL CASES INFORMAL, OPEN AND COOPERATIVE. THE SECRETARIAT TONE IS SET BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL WHOSE PRACTICE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES HIS CONVICTION THAT INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATIVE EFFORTS SHOULD PRECEDE FORMAL ACTIONS. HIS APPROACH WORKS PARTICULARLY WELL IN IMCO BECAUSE OF THE LOW LEVEL OF POLITICAL CONTENT IN ITS WORK AND THE CONSEQUENT FACT THAT COUNTRIES DO NOT GENERALLY ATTEMPT TO USE THE IMCO FORUM FOR POLITICAL MANEUVER OR RHETORIC.

2. B. EMBASSY IMCO LIASON OFFICER HAS ENJOYED OPEN FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE RECEPTION AT EVERY LEVEL OF SECRETARIAT WHEN HE HAS SOUGHT INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE. ALTHOUGH U.S. CONTRIBUTES LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF IMCO'S BUDGET (CONTRIBUTIONS ARE BASED ON COUNTRY'S MERCHANT MARINE TONNAGE), IT IS A VERY MAJOR FORCE IN IMCO BECAUSE OF THE U.S. POSITION AS THE WORLD'S MAJOR CONSUMER OF MERCHANT MARINE SERVICES; ITS LEADERSHIP IN STANDARD-SETTING IN AREAS SUCH AS SAFETY, SHIP DESIGN, COMMUNICATIONS AND POLLUTION; AND ABOVE ALL THE VERY ACTIVE,

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PROFESSIONAL ROLE PLAYED BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD AS THE

LEAD U.S. AGENCY IN ALL IMCO MEETINGS. C. THE EMBASSY HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE SECRETARIAT REFUSING U.S. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.

3. D. EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION WITH IMCO SECRETARY-GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION. IN TERMS OF THE STATEMENT OF THE QUESTION IN REFTEL, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE SECRETARIAT WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS CONSIDER THE MEMBER STATES AS PROPRIETORS ENTITLED TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THEIR ORGANIZATION. AS POINTED OUT IN QUESTION A, THE SECRETARIAT IS NOT USUALLY OBLIGED TO HIDE BEHIND THE LEGAL DISTINCTION BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND MEMBER STATES BECAUSE MEMBER STATES DO NOT USUALLY ATTEMPT TO USE THE ORGANIZATION TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL GOALS AGAINST OTHER MEMBER STATES. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE DIRECTORS OF THE PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES DO SIGNIFICANT INFORMAL WORK IN THE PRE-SELECTION OF COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP CHAIRMEN AND IN BALANCING THE MEMBERSHIP OF GROUPS SO THAT INTERESTS ARE REPRESENTED. CONSULTATIONS ARE ALSO IMPORTANT WHEN A PROFESSIONAL POSITION ON THE IMCO STAFF IS TO BE FILLED. THIS IS THE LEVEL OF POLITICS IN IMCO. E. EMBASSY LIAISON OFFICER FOLLOWS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS INCLUDING THE BUDGET, PREPARATIONS FOR FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS, WORKING GROUPS, CONFERENCES, STATUS OF SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LDCS, AND EMPLOYMENT POSSIBILITIES FOR U.S. CITIZENS. ARMSTRONG

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